(d) if so, the extent to which these have been found helpful;

(e) the extent to which Government have been benefited by the setting up of the Commission and the activities undertaken by it, so far; and

(f) what decision Government have taken for reconstituting the Commission after expiry of its present tenure on April 7, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Government have received four reports of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis. First and Second Reports for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively of the Commission along with the Action Taken Memoranda have already been laid on the table of the House. The Third and Fourth Reports for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 (combined) and 1998-99 and 1999-00 (combined) respectively, have also been received recently. The main aim of the Commission is upliftment of Safai Karamcharis. From the reports, the Government receive inputs regarding various issues relating to the Safai Karamcharis.

(f) The validity of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis is upto 2002. The tenure of the 6 members of the Commission expired in April 2000. The tenure of one Member is upto July 2000. The Government is yet to take a decision on the reconstitution of the Commission.

Implementation of Article 15 (4) and 16 (4) of the Constitution

5265. SHRI MOHD. AZAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated action to enact a law for effective implementation of the provisions of Article 15 (4) and 16 (4) of the constitution as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee in 1993;

(b) if so, the progress achieved in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for delay implementation of the said recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) 77th Cosntitutional Amendment Act, 1995 was enacted to provide reservation for SCs & STs in promotion under Article 16(4A) of the Constitution of India.

Animal Sacrifices in A.P.

5266. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh tops in animal sacrifice banned under the prevention of cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; and

(b) if so, the action taken to persuade the State Government to take action against the offenders under the relevant law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) Yes Sir. The Animal Welfare Board of India had sent teams comprising of animal welfare officers and animal activists for finding facts of animal sacrifices throughout the Country. All available information points to Andhra Pradesh topping in animal sacrifices in India.

(b) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the concerned District Collectors in the State have been requested to take suitable action under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (50 of 1960). The Chairman of the Animal Welfare Board of India has also discussed with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh so as to reduce the animal sacrifices in the State.

Report of WHO on women deaths

5267. SHRI MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that violence against women causes more deaths and disabilities than deaths due to various illness, as reported by World Health Organization;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Centre of Operation Research and Training records in Maharashtra showed 120 cases of dowry deaths and all these women were below 25 years of age;

(c) whether it is also a fact that another study from Delhi revealed that 56 per cent of all suicides were by women and marital discord was the common reasons; and